

PRESS RELEASE

On: September 1 Crop Report

For Immediate Release: September 12, 2002

For Information Contact:

Terry Mathews
1-800-256-4485

Louisiana Rice and Soybean Yield Expected To Reach Record Levels

Rice and soybean yields are expected to equal or exceed state records, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician with the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn and Sorghum are the only major crops expected to have lower yields than in 2001.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 29.4 million cwt, up 8 percent from last month, but down 2 percent from 2001. The state yield is expected to reach 5,500 cwt per acre, tying the state record set last year. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 535,000 acres. This is a decrease of 11,000 harvested acres from the 2001 crop. U.S. production is forecast at 206 million cwt, down 3 percent from 2001. U.S. harvested acres are expected to total 3.21 million acres, down 3 percent from last year.

Sugarcane production is estimated at 14.9 million net tons, unchanged from last month, but up 3 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 30 net tons per acre, up 1 ton from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 495,000 acres. U.S. production is forecast at 35.3 million tons from an estimated 1.02 million harvested acres. U.S. production is expected to be up 2 percent from last year.

Cotton production is expected to total 700,000 bales, down 7 percent from last month and 32 percent from 2001. An estimated 500,000 acres are expected for harvest, 355,000 fewer than last year. Yield per acre, at 672 pounds, is 92 pounds more than in 2001. Upland cotton production for the U.S. is forecast at 17.5 million bales, 11 percent below 2001. U.S. growers expect to harvest 12.7 million acres, down 7 percent from 2001.

Soybean production is expected to total 25.1 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but up 25 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 760,000 acres, up 25 percent from 2001. Yield is forecast at 33 bushels per acre, tying last year's record. U.S. production is forecast at 2.66 billion bushels, down 8 percent from 2001. U.S. farmers expect to harvest 71.8 million acres, down 2 percent from last year.

Corn production is forecast at 62.4 million bushels, up 7 percent from last month and up 37 percent from a year ago. Acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 480,000 acres, up 56 percent from 2001. Yield per acre, at 130 bushels, is down 18 bushels from 2001. U.S. production is forecast at 8.85 billion bushels, down 7 percent from last year. U.S. farmers expect to harvest 70.5 million acres of corn for grain, up 3 percent from 2001.

Sorghum production is estimated at 16.0 million bushels, unchanged from the previous estimate, but down 10 percent from last year. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 195,000 acres, down 7 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 82 bushels per acre, 3 bushels fewer than last year. U.S. acreage forecast to be harvested for grain, at 7.53 million acres, is down 12 percent from 2001.

-30-

[Tables on back]

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA
September 1, 2002

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2001
	2001	2002	2001	2002		2001	2002	
Corn for grain	307	480	148	130	bushels	45,436	62,400	+37
Upland Cotton	855	500	580	672	bales	1,034	700	-32
Rice	546	535	5,500	5,500	cwt	30,014	29,425	-2
Sorghum for grain	210	195	85	82	bushels	17,850	15,990	-10
Soybeans	610	760	33	33	bushels	20,130	25,080	+25
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	495	29	30	net tons	14,355	14,850	+3

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES
September 1, 2002

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2001
	2001	2002	2001	2002		2001	2002	
Corn for grain	68,808	70,541	138.2	125.4	bushels	9,506,840	8,848,529	-7
Upland Cotton	13,559.5	12,650.0	694	664	bales	19,602.4	17,505.0	-11
Rice	3,314.0	3,207.0	6,429	6,432	cwt	213,045	206,275	-3
Sorghum for grain	8,584	7,528	59.9	51.0	bushels	514,524	384,254	-25
Soybeans	73,000	71,799	39.6	37.0	bushels	2,890,572	2,655,819	-8
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,028.0	1,024.1	33.6	34.4	net tons	34,587	35,264	+2